

CLAIMS

1. A method of determining an output data value of sensed data, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) dividing a sensed data value into three contiguous regions comprising a middle region, a lower region, and an upper region, and:

(b) with each value in the lower region, designating the corresponding bit value to be a first value;

(c) with each value in the upper region, designating the corresponding bit value to be a second value; and

(d) with each value in the middle region, utilising the spatially surrounding values to determine whether said value in the middle region is a first value or a second value.

2. A card for operating a device, said card being adapted to cooperate with said device so as to cause the device to operate in a predetermined operation mode, wherein said card comprises, on a first surface, a visual representation of said operation mode, and on a second surface, a visually encoded representation of said operation mode, said encoded representation being readable by said device and decodable by said device so as to cause the device to operate in said operation mode.

3. A card as claimed in claim 2, wherein said device comprises a camera adapted to receive a sensed image, and means for transforming the appearance of the sensed image, wherein the visual representation is indicative of a mode of operation wherein a particular transformation is applied to the sensed image.

4. A card as claimed in claim 2, wherein said device comprises a book reader and said card includes a book contents portion for display by said book reader.

5. A method of distributing information on a card, said method comprising the steps of:

dividing a surface of the card into a plurality of predetermined areas;

printing a first data portion onto a first predetermined area;

utilising said printed first data portion when reading information stored on said card;

and when the information stored on the card is to be updated,

identifying a second predetermined area to print further information on said card, said second predetermined area not having been previously utilised to print data.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said predetermined areas are selected in a predetermined order.

7. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said printing utilises a high resolution ink dot printer.

8. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said data portion is printed in an encoded form having a degree of fault tolerance.

9. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said data portion is printed in a Reed-Solomon encoded form.

10. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said data portion is replicated in a chosen predetermined area.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein each of said predetermined areas includes a number of border target markers indicating the location of said region.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said border markers are utilised when reading information stored on the card to locate said predetermined areas.

13. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said border targets comprise a relatively large area of a first colour and a relatively small area of a second colour located centrally of said relatively large area.

14. A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said card is of a generally rectangular credit card sized shape.

15. An information carrier that comprises:

a card; and

a plurality of dots that are printed on the card, the plurality of dots carrying data representing a set of instructions that are readable by a processing device, the array of dots having the following characteristics:

the dots are set out in a generally rectangular array with a logical upper side, a logical lower side, a logical left side and a logical right side, with a data area bounded by the logical sides;

the dots define a plurality of targets that extend along both the logical left and the right side of the array, each target being identifiable as such by a reading device;

the dots are positioned in a plurality of substantially parallel columns that extend between the logical upper and lower sides of the array; and

the dots define a plurality of clock markers that are positioned along each of the upper and lower logical sides of the array, in aligned pairs with each said column extending between clock markers of respective pairs.

16. An information carrier that comprises:

a card;

a plurality of dots that are printed on the card, the plurality of dots carrying data representing a set of instructions that are readable by a processing device, the array of dots having the following characteristics:

the dots are set out in a generally rectangular array;

the dots define a plurality of rectangular data blocks making up the array, each rectangular data block having a logical left side, a logical right side, a logical upper side and a logical lower side;

the dots define a plurality of targets that extend along both the logical left side and the right side of the array, each target being identifiable as such by a reading device;

the dots of each data block are positioned in a plurality of substantially parallel columns that extend between the logical upper and lower sides of the data block; and

the dots define a plurality of clock markers that are positioned along each of the upper and lower logical sides of the data blocks, in aligned pairs with each said column extending between clock markers of respective pairs.